

GilletteCollege



Foundation

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to collaborate with our community partners to advance financial support for students, capital projects, and programs through fundraising activities, endowments, and donations.

307-681-6400
gillettecollegefoundation.org
300 W. Sinclair St.
Gillette, WY 82718



GILLETTE COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Left to right: Charlene Camblin, Jean Kingan, Toby Gorsuch, Sue Knesel, Maggi McCreery, Ryan Conklin, Dr. Janell Oberlander, Joe Lawrence, Heidi Gross-Executive Director, Amanda Hauck-Admin Coordinator, Nathan McLeland, Peg Smith, Holly Schamber, Lori Hubbard, Dave Horning. Not pictured: Kelly Barlow, Scott Cargill, Tom Dillon, Amanda Fiedor, Dan Neal



What a great community we live in! How fortunate Gillette College is to have a strong partnership with the Gillette College Foundation. Our partnership is instrumental to our success. Your support and dedication to Gillette College have helped make 2023 a banner year in our story. Thanks to you, we embark on a new era, establishing the foundation for many years to come.

As I celebrate, the focus is, first and foremost, our students. Thanks to the generous support of our community, the Gillette College Foundation provided \$384,665 in scholarships to Gillette College students, helping the recipients reach their career goals.

We plan to achieve full institutional accreditation by expanding academic and student opportunities to prepare our college for a transformative future. The Board of Trustees finalized policies, navigated funding hurdles, and guided the institution as we completed the transition of the faculty and staff from Northern Wyoming Community College to Gillette Community College District. The significant step to finalizing our independent status is accreditation. In addition, this fall semester brought the immense pleasure of the inaugural athletic seasons and the comeback of Energy City Voices. There is much to celebrate as we look forward to the projects and milestones we will complete in 2024.

On behalf of the Gillette College faculty and staff, I invite you to be part of our history and exciting future as we become the best community college in the great state of Wyoming. It's a great time to be a Pronghorn!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Janell Oberlander
President
Gillette Community College District



I am so proud of the great work that Gillette Community College District has achieved this past year. We submitted our application for accreditation to the Higher Learning Commission on June 30. This monumental milestone was achieved thanks to the hard work of all our faculty and staff. As we look forward to next year, we will continue the accreditation process and look forward to achieving more milestones along the journey.

We also welcomed back athletics and the Energy City Voices. These programs bring vitality back to the campus and we are excited to have students residing in Inspiration Hall. High Plains Grill is now open and is a gathering space for our students, faculty and staff.

The Foundation continues to support our students with scholarships, grants, program funding, and equipment. We cannot achieve our mission of advancing student success at Gillette College without your help. Your gift makes a huge impact on the lives of our students, their families, and our community. As we look to the future, Gillette College will continue to respond to the needs of our local industries by providing a skilled workforce. More than 84% of our graduates stay in Campbell County after they graduate. They work here, raise their families here, and contribute to the economic stability of northeast Wyoming.

Will you please consider Gillette College Foundation in your year-end giving plans? Your gift of \$50 or more will support scholarships and programs at Gillette College. Our goal is to eliminate financial barriers so all students can realize their academic goals, whether we are the first stop on their education journey or the final destination.

Thank you for your continued support of Gillette College Foundation! We truly appreciate all that you do to support the educational excellence Gillette College has to offer.

Warmly,

Heidi Gross
Gillette College Foundation Executive Director

\$384,664
Dollars awarded in scholarships
by the Foundation

\$265,437
Total program support

\$1,028,842
Total contributions

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ALUMNI | HOLLY HOFER

Meet Holly Hofer! Holly graduated from Gillette College's nursing program with her RN degree in 2018. "Even before I was a nurse, I always knew I wanted to be in healthcare. I was a stay-at-home mom for 10+ years, and as my youngest was getting ready to go to school, I thought about what I wanted to do. Around that same time, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. While she was going through treatment, I saw those nurses in action, and they inspired me. I wanted to be that kind of nurse. That is when I was convinced to start my nursing journey."

Holly works at the Heptner Cancer and Infusion Center at Campbell County Hospital on an as-needed or PRN basis. She is also a Gillette College nursing instructor and has started working on her master's degree. Gillette College is proud to have Holly as a graduate and employee. Thank you, Holly, for representing Gillette College and continuing to serve your community.



ALUMNI | KENDRA ANDERSON

Meet Kendra Anderson, a 2016 graduate from Gillette College with an Associate of Applied Science degree. Kendra recently joined the GCCD team as the Human Resource Coordinator. She is finishing her Bachelor's degree at the University of Wyoming and completing her Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) certification. Kendra is a shining star in this community, and we are very proud to say she works for Gillette College.

Kendra has worked for over ten years in Campbell County Government positions, from Elections Coordinator to the Chief Deputy Clerk in the County Clerk's Office. Kendra recently joined the Pronghorn Family as HR Coordinator. We are thrilled to have her on our team. Kendra shines as a leader and a go-getter with multiple accomplishments, including the Gillette Area Leadership Institute (GALI) graduate, a Campbell County Energizers Committee member, an AAU volleyball coach, and a Gillette College Alumni Association member. You can always feel Kendra's positive and motivated energy. Thank you, Kendra, for all you do for our town and institution.



ALUMNI | CASEY SELLERS

We are very proud of our Alumni Spotlight, Casey Sellers. Casey graduated in 2016 with an Associates Degree in Science from Gillette College. She earned a Bachelor's in Animal Science and a Master's in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Wyoming. She went on to coach the UW Women's Rodeo Team for two years. Casey saw the opportunity to be the assistant rodeo coach at Gillette College, returning in July 2022.

Casey is passionate about returning home as a fourth-generation member of her family ranch. She has rodeoed since she was five years old, and rodeo continues to play a significant role in her life. Her love of horses, dedication to the Gillette College Rodeo, and her family's Wagonhammer Ranch keep Casey busy. Casey is driven, intelligent, and hardworking. She is a positive role model to this community and Gillette College. Thank you, Casey, for continuing to build the positive legacy and traditions in Campbell County.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | SAMANTHA BUCK

Upon meeting Samantha Buck, you will have no doubt she will accomplish great things and have a bright future. Samantha is a current student at Gillette College will graduate this upcoming May with an Associate's Degree in Psychology and Addiction Practitioner Certificate. She plans to continue her education online and start her practicum at an addiction center in Gillette. Samantha was born in Gillette but grew up and graduated from Rock Springs. After college in Salt Lake City, Utah, she moved back to Gillette with

her family. With experience in various jobs, she realized becoming an addiction counselor was attainable and set her mind to accomplish her goals. She is very grateful for receiving several scholarships. The Mary Alice Logue Endowment, Gillette College Directors & Trustees Endowed Scholarship, and Advisory Board Scholarship eased working full-time, being a student full-time, and raising a family.

"Coming back to school, later in life and more driven, made the learning part easier. The financial part was the stressor. These scholarships eased my mind. I could focus more on doing my best and fulfilling my potential in the classroom."

It is very clear that Samantha is driven, focused, and determined to make a difference in her life and others. We are very proud of her and wish her the best with further careers and higher education plans. Good luck, Samantha, and congratulations on your upcoming graduation.

MEET OUR GILLETTE COLLEGE ALUMNI & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | KYLIE BULLACH

Meet Kylie Bullach, the Richard M. Baker Scholarship recipient at Gillette College. She is a young mother of two, doing it all on her own. Kylie works at a coal mine she has been with for almost three years, participating in the Mine Rescue Team. "I'm very appreciative," Kylie said. The Baker Scholarship helps her cover school finances. Kylie says that she would not be able to pursue a better future through school if she had not received scholarship help.

Kylie graduated in 2018 in general education and is a committed college student graduating with her Associate's Degree in Health Science, hoping to enroll in the Nursing Program. While at Gillette College, she has learned "to never give up and that I am capable of way more than I believe I am. Anything is possible if you are willing to put in the work." Kylie's goal is to work in the labor and delivery unit or the emergency room at the hospital. She shares a few words for future students, "If you tell yourself you can't do it, you won't. If you tell yourself you can do it, you'll achieve anything you set your mind to."



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | KYLEE LAMB

Meet Kylee Lamb. Kylee graduated in 2022 from Big Horn High School. She participated in many activities, including Skills USA, 4-H, Student Council, Key Club, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track. Currently, a student at Gillette College, Kylee has received several scholarships, allowing her to focus on her classes and the knowledge she is learning, not worrying about college costs. She was awarded Cloud Peak Energy Endowed Scholarship, PacifiCorp Scholarship, and Wyodak Mine Technical Education Endowment.

Currently, Kylee is working for her Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology. For her second year and beyond, she is considering a Diesel Certificate and transferring to Sheridan College to finish with a Business Certificate online. With these skills gained, she will go wherever the industry takes her. Kylee is involved in extra-curricular activities, including President of the Welding Club; serving on State Skills USA Leadership Council; and, 2023 Sheridan WYO Rodeo Senior Princess. Kylee says the dorms are the best thing about Gillette College because they are affordable and the best she has seen. Everyone is so welcoming and willing to help with anything she needs.

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT

ERNEST GIBSON



We would like to thank Ernest Gibson for his services in the U.S. Air Force. Ever since the age of ten, Ernie was fascinated by aircraft and that is when he began to study the military branches and realized he wanted to do something different. Ultimately, he decided to join the Air Force. He wanted to get out of his community, experience life, meet different people with different life experiences, and just travel the world, plus he would get his education paid for while doing the things he wanted to do. In January 1982 he decided to enlist in the Air Force, he was only

17 years old, but the Airforce let him enlist but not go into basic training until August 1982, when he then went to San Antonio, TX.

Ernie held many positions while in the U.S. Airforce; Security Policeman, which changed to Security Forces, Elite Guard, Presidential Honor Guard, Office of the Security of Defense at the Pentagon, Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, and Drill Instructor. In March 2003, Ernie retired from the Air Force with 21 years, and 9 months of honorable service.

In 2005, he moved to Gillette. In 2007 he started taking classes at Gillette College. In between college, he worked a few jobs; Adult Community Corrections Center as the Program Manager, K-Mart as the Assistant Store Manager & Loss Prevention Manager While working at the Campbell County Sheriff's Office; he was a Detention Officer, Patrol Deputy, DARE Officer, and School Resource Officer. In March 2021, Ernie retired from the Campbell County Sheriff's Office and is currently taking classes to earn his Human Services Certificate.

Today, Ernie is enjoying his retirement, taking college classes, and loves being part of any veteran's programs the community offers. He states, "I really want to help veterans," and he loves to be an inspirational/informal leader for the Veterans. Ernie loves doing activities with his family, which also includes family gatherings all over different states, loves to travel, likes to listen to audiobooks, ride his electric bike with his wife, and enjoys his dogs because he is a "big kid" at heart.

Ernie lives his life by following the advice of John Wayne "Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much. Life is too short."

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

We celebrated our scholarship dinner last February on a very cold night! We were so pleased that many people were able to attend. Our scholarship dinner is a wonderful opportunity for our donors to meet their scholarship recipients. This year, we also selected Crysta Sullivan as our Distinguished Alumni of the Year. We truly appreciate the support our donors provide our students here at Gillette College.

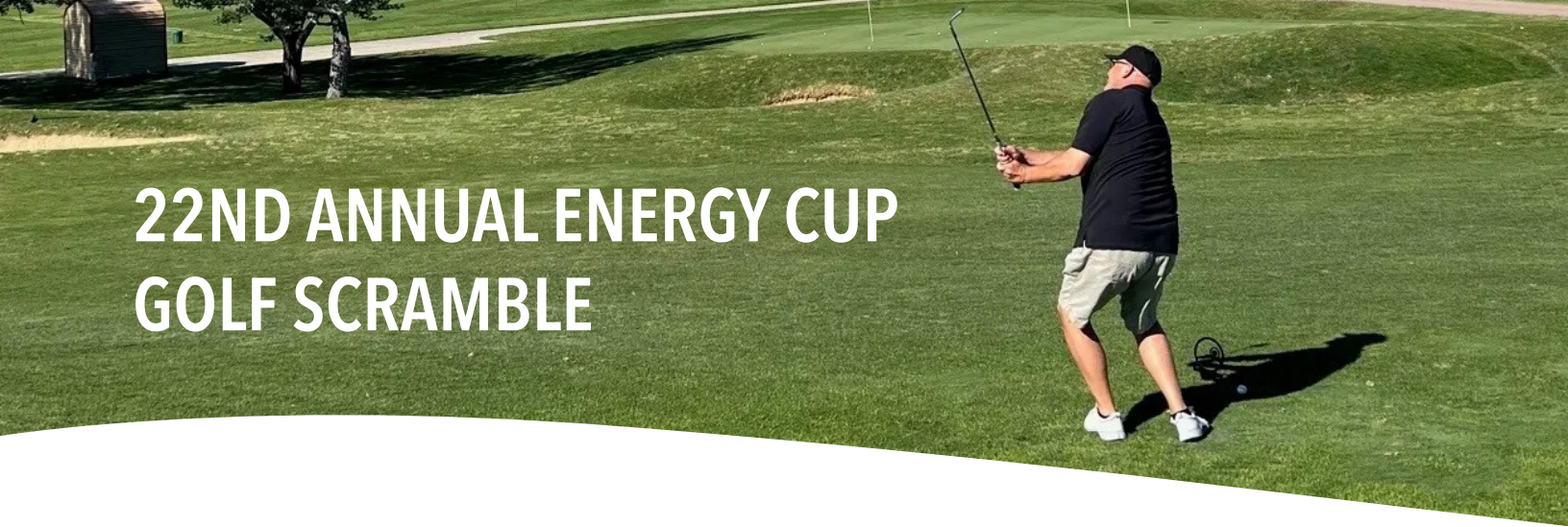
VIVA LAS VEGAS CASINO NIGHT

The most successful casino night to date! We raised over \$161,000 and had a record attendance of 458 guests. Thank you to everyone who helped with such an amazing event!

Each year, the foundation recognizes the individual and business that provided the greatest financial support for the past year. At our Casino Night, we recognized Bruce and Jillaine Haight as our Individual Builders of the Year, First National Bank as Corporate Builder, and Jerry Tystad received the Spirit of Gillette College award. Thank you for your continued support of Gillette College!



22ND ANNUAL ENERGY CUP GOLF SCRAMBLE



It was a windy, chilly day but the golfers did not mind! We are so thankful that each year, we fill our tournament with 36 teams of great folks that support our college. Thank you so much to our sponsors and players!

DONOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION



Each year we take the opportunity to celebrate our donors. We cannot do our good work without their support. This year we were thrilled to host the Energy City Voices. They were amazing! We are so thrilled to have this program back on campus and look forward to many more exciting events on campus!



2024 SCHEDULE

The Gillette College Foundation proudly presents our 2024 events and fundraisers! Will you be joining us in the fun? Take a look at what we have coming up this year!

CASINO NIGHT

April 6th, 2024

WYOGIVES

July 12th, 2024

ENERGY CUP CHALLENGE GOLF SCRAMBLE

August 23rd, 2024



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